cars and the inferior quality of food served in trains zone-wise, during the last two years; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to redress these grievances and to improve service and the quality of food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) During the last two years, Zonal Railways received following number of complaints regarding catering:—

Central	127
Eastern	83
Northern	112
North Eastern	11
North East Frontier	19
Southern	71
South Eastern	60
Western	153
	636

i.e. 0.87 per day

(b) Action taken/proposed to be taken to improve the quality of service include introduction of casserole service, frequent inspections by officers/supervisors of pantry cars/base kitchens, modernisation of base kitchens, procurement and installation of modern kitchen equipments, training of cooks, penal action against the staff/contractors found responsible etc.

Merit promotion scheme in Central Universities

535. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Universities in which the merit promotion scheme has been implemented;

(b) whether this scheme is still in operation and also how long will it remain in operation;

(c) the number of appointments made under this scheme in the Central Universities category-wise along with the qualifications of these teachers; and

(d) how weightage has been given to seniority in these promotions and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Seven. The Pondicherry University and the Indira Gandhi National Open University were established only in October, 1985.

(b) Yes, Sir; the merit promotion scheme is still in operation.

(c) and (d) The number of appointments made under the scheme is given in the statement enclosed see below). Appointments are made in accordance with the guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission and seniority is not a criteria in the Merit Promotion Scheme.

Statement

S.No.	Name of University	Teachers promoted as Reader and Professors under Merit Promotion Scheme		Remarks
		Reader	Professor	
1	Aligarh Muslim Universtiy	224	91	
2	Banaras Hindu University	231	144	
3.	Delhi University	127	120	
4	*Hyderabad University*	11	15	
5	Jawaharalal Nehru University	57	47	
6	Visva-Bharati	83	30	
7	North-Eastern Hill University	4	6	